GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
FIXATION OF REGISTRATION AND BI-MONTHLY RENT
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of registration and bi-monthly rent fixed by Telecommunication Department to provide telephone facilities to the consumers of telephones residing in Metropolitan Cities, Towns and in rural areas;

(b) whether different rates of commissions have been fixed for PCO operators in the above mentioned areas;

(c) if so, the details of the present rate of commission in the above mentioned areas;

(d) whether the Government area aware of the fact that MTNL is not providing the facilities meant for the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) As per TRAI Act 1997, as amended in 2000, the power to fix telecom tariffs is with the TRAI alone. Based on the TRAI's tariff order, the two Public Sector units, viz. the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) &Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) have fixed their tariffs. The details of the "registration amount" and "bi-monthly rental" currently applied by BSNL and MTNL for urban and rural areas is in the Annexure. The urban area covers consumers residing in the metropolitan cities as well as the towns.

(b) & (c) The franchisees of STD PCO in the urban areas are paida commission @ 20% of the call charges, In the rural areas the STD PCO franchisees are paid a commission @ 25%of the gross turnover. Local PCOs/Handicapped PCO franchises are paid commission @ 40 paise per call charges in urban as well as rural areas. In the case of areas covered by BSNL, wherever private cellular PCOs are also operating in competition,the commission payable to STD PCO franchisees is 22% ofthe call charges (excluding metro districts). The field offices of BSNL are also authorized to offer higher commissions up to 30 paise perunit (i.e. 25% of call charges to PCO franchisees) wherever competition from private basic service operators exists.

(d) & (e) The sphere of MTNL's operations cover mainlythe metros of Delhi and Mumbai. All State of Art Technologies/facilities are available to both subscribers of the rural and urban areas. There is thus no discrimination against rural subscribers.

ANNEXURE

Details of Registration amount and bi-monthly rent fixed by BSNL & MTNL in urban and in rural areas.

A. Registration amount

Unit area	Urban area	Rural
BSNL	Rs. 2000	Rs. 500
MTNL	Nil	Nil

B. Bi-monthly Rental (in rupees)

1. BSNL

Capacity of local Exchange	Urban areas	Rural areas
(No. of lines)		
Upto 999	240	100
1000-29,999	240	220
30,000-99,999	360	300
1 lakh and above	500	420

2. MTNL

Rs. 500/- Bi-monthly